



General Assembly

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5489**

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 3014

AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
4 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
5 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
6 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
7 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
8 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
9 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
10 than one in physical education.

11 (b) [Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each
12 graduating class thereafter] For classes graduating from 2004 to 2016,
13 inclusive, and, if the Department of Education is unable to secure
14 federal funding in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of

15 this section, for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional
16 board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high
17 school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
18 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
19 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer
20 than three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course
21 on civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not
22 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
23 one in physical education.

24 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2017, and for each
25 graduating class thereafter, provided the Department of Education
26 secures federal funding in accordance with the provisions of
27 subsection (d) of this section, no local or regional board of education
28 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
29 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a
30 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine
31 credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (A) four credits in
32 English, including composition; (B) three credits in social studies,
33 including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half
34 credit in civics and American government; (C) one credit in fine arts;
35 and (D) one credit in a humanities elective; (2) eight credits in science,
36 technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than
37 (A) four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry, and
38 algebra II or probability and statistics; (B) three credits in science,
39 including at least one credit in life science and at least one credit in
40 physical science; and (C) one credit in a science, technology,
41 engineering and mathematics elective; (3) three and one-half credits in
42 career and life skills, including not fewer than (A) one credit in
43 physical education; (B) one-half credit in comprehensive health
44 education; and (C) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
45 career and technical education, English as a second language,
46 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
47 and physical activity; (4) two credits in world languages, subject to the

48 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (5) a one credit senior
49 demonstration project. Local and regional boards of education shall
50 provide alternate means for a student to complete any high school
51 graduation requirement if such student is unable to satisfactorily
52 complete any of the required courses, and allow students to attend a
53 public institution of higher education pursuant to subdivision (4) of
54 subsection (g) of this section.

55 (d) Not later than July 1, 2010, the Department of Education shall
56 apply for federal economic stimulus funds available pursuant to the
57 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, or any
58 other federal grant program, in an amount, as determined by the
59 Commissioner of Education and approved by the General Assembly,
60 that is sufficient to cover the entire cost of implementation of the
61 changes to the requirements for a student to graduate from high school
62 or to be granted a diploma for classes graduating in 2017 and 2018, as
63 set forth in the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. If the
64 department is unable to secure such sufficient funding under said
65 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or any other federal
66 grant program, the provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall not
67 apply.

68 [(c)] (e) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
69 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
70 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
71 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
72 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
73 be fulfilled by an elective.

74 [(d)] (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
75 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
76 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
77 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
78 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
79 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the

80 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
81 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
82 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
83 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
84 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
85 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
86 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
87 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
88 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
89 accredited.

90 [(e)] (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve,
91 inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local
92 or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward
93 meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
94 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
95 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
96 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the
97 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
98 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through
99 on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit
100 provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an
101 examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the
102 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)
103 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
104 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency
105 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,
106 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours
107 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject
108 matter; or (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement
109 upon the successful completion of coursework at an institution
110 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
111 accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such
112 an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

113 [(f)] (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
114 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
115 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
116 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
117 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
118 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
119 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
120 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
121 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
122 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
123 requirements of this section.

124 [(g)] (i) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma
125 to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who left high
126 school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the
127 United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such
128 service.

129 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) For the fiscal year ending June
130 30, 2012, and each ending fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
131 Education shall provide grants to local and regional school districts to
132 implement the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the
133 general statutes, as amended by this act, provided the department is
134 able to secure federal funding in accordance with the provisions of
135 subsection (d) of said section 10-221a.

136 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
137 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
138 *1, 2010*):

139 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and
140 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation
141 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through
142 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,
143 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational

144 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board
145 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or
146 secondary school. [No] A person sixteen years of age or older and
147 enrolled in a full-time program of study in any local or regional school
148 district may enroll in [an] not more than two adult education [activity
149 without] classes or activities in a school year. Such enrollment shall be
150 with the approval of the school principal of the school in which such
151 person is enrolled in such full-time program. High school graduation
152 credit awarded for an adult education class may only be awarded in
153 proportion to the instructional hours required in section 10-221a, as
154 amended by this act, and shall not exceed one-half high school credit
155 for each adult education credit. A student may not be awarded, for
156 purposes of meeting graduation requirements, more than two credits
157 earned through adult education. Instruction: (1) Shall be provided in
158 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with
159 limited English proficiency and elementary and secondary school
160 completion programs or classes; and (2) may be provided in (A) any
161 subject provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such
162 school district, including vocational education, (B) adult literacy, (C)
163 parenting skills, and (D) any other subject or activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2010	10-221a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2010	10-69(a)